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X.—*New Expedition to the Pacific and Antarctic Oceans.*

WE have great gratification in announcing that an expedition on a splendid scale for discovery in the Pacific and Antarctic Oceans, is fitting out in the United States; some of the following particulars of which have been kindly communicated by Captain Basil Hall, R.N.

“ The expedition will consist of a frigate of 36 guns, a store-ship of 360 tons, two brigs of about 260 tons, and a schooner of 120 tons. The first object of the expedition is to examine thoroughly the Pacific Ocean, to ascertain the existence or non-existence of many islands which from time to time have been reported by whale ships and others; and if found, to survey them and fix their position. Subordinate to this is the intention of pushing during the fine season as far south as practicable, and of exploring the unknown regions of the Antarctic Ocean. It is expected that the expedition will be ready to start in the spring of 1837; and that it will be absent during a period of three years. An Act has passed Congress for a grant of 60,000*l.* towards its outfit; and Lieutenant Charles Wilkes, of the United States’ navy, a scientific and intelligent officer, has come to London, and has visited Paris and Munich, for the purpose of procuring the best instruments that these three capitals can produce.”

This is as it should be—we heartily rejoice to see the United States coming forward as becomes a great nation, and assuming her proper position among the patrons of geographical discovery. The magnificent and liberal scale on which this expedition is planned is worthy of the nation that sends it forth. We cordially wish it success, and look forward with pleasure to see the names of citizens of the United States enrolled in that glorious list of discoverers, from Columbus to Back, which will be transmitted to the latest posterity as proud memorials of the countries that gave them birth, and of the individuals or governments who patronized their undertakings.

XI.—*On the Level of the Baltic.*

COL. JACKSON writes from St. Petersburg that Mr. Norden-skiöld, professor of mineralogy at Helsingfors, has proposed to the Academy of Sciences to institute a set of experiments to determine the fact of the sinking of the surface of the Baltic, or the contrary. Glass tubes are, it is said, to be sunk at convenient places along the shores of the Gulfs of Bothnia and Finland, and regular observations to be made and registered, in conjunction with barometrical indications.